

Fairness In Taxes

Meeting Minutes 9-9-16

Board Attendance: Leo Burke, Bill & Sheila Hartranft, Michael Hinchman, Don Kerns, Joe Somerville, Vic Staniek & Jim Tweed

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 3:00 P.M.

Education – Vic Staniec

- School began on September 6th with all classes in session on September 9th.
- Starting salary for teachers is \$48,574.00 per year; lower than the state average.
- Superintendent Taylor’s salary is \$157,000.00 per year up to \$172,000.00 per year with bonus. Highest superintendent’s salary is \$266,463.00 in Middletown Township.
- High School principal’s salary is \$158,000.00 per year. In Essex County it is \$266,463.00.
- On September 23rd the ribbon was cut for the new city owned field. The cost was 2 x’s that of Notre Dame in Ewing Township.
- Michael Hinchman commented that had a positive impression of the new cork turf, as well as that they re-sodded for the graduation with the intent of re-using on the soccer field which did not happen.
- Improvements – corrected the new HVAC; primary school has new concrete; middle school now has handicap ramp (this was funded); high school has a new entrance; the dome was repainted.
- NJ Magazine rated 370 high schools; Mainland Regional was #90, and OC was #107.

Council Meetings – Michael Hinchman

- Asked who was accountable for the rock road and topsoil site at 34th Street which now needs to be re-done; did not use stable ground to begin with. Why?
- Trident marine dredging Snug Harbor and asked homeowners to contribute \$5,000.00 for their frontage as their share. City to cart spoils? Where? Could not get answers.
- American Legion with regard to prevailing wage. City leasing for \$1/year, making the property worthless. Why not have them buy it outright?
- Dave Hayes commented that no one can make any negative comments; and council never engages with the public or provides adequate responses.
- Jim Tweed suggested Michael outflank them; contact individuals rather than the entire council in council meetings.
- Attendee asked about the FBI investigation. No new information available. Pete Guinosso commented that it was an Atlantic County investigating agent who was handling the matter.
- Pete Guinosso also commented that he had asked about cost centers, i.e.; music pier, fitness center. Unable to get a satisfactory answer.
- Exxon Station – Would FIT support open space for this location?

Board Elections

Michael Hinchman expressed a desire to step down as President in this election due to family commitments. As no-one stepped forward, he accepted the nomination to remain as president, but asked that the meetings be chaired by another member of the board. Bill Hartranft, if nominated again, offered to accept this responsibility.

Jim Tweed moved to nominate the following members to the board:

Officers

Michael Hinchman, President
Bill Hartranft, Vice President & Treasurer
Sheila Hartranft, Secretary

Members-at-Large

Leo Burke (Non-resident)	Dale Nicholas
Pete Guinosso	Joe Somerville
Dave Hayes	Vic Staniek
Marie Hayes	Jim Tweed

Seconded by Vic Staniec, voted in by acclamation. Unanimous.

Committees Re-affirmed:

City Revenue & Expenditures, Michael Hinchman

Education, Vic Staniec

Membership, Bill Hartranft

OC Flood, Suzanne Horneck.

It was suggested by Sheila Hartranft that meetings possibly be moved to Wednesdays, 7:00 P.M. Sheila Hartranft will check city calendar for dates not in conflict with other organizations. This may make it possible for members who work to attend more frequently.

Adjourned 4:45 P.M.

The next meeting (s) is scheduled for Friday, October 7, 2016, 3:00 P.M.

Suzanne Hornick, Flood Committee Chair – To be our speaker.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sheila Hartranft, Secretary